

PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR CELEBRATES OPENING OF INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL'S NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

Latest 1.2-mile Section Connects to Monon Trail, Provides Regional Connectivity to Downtown Core

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today was joined by Central Indiana Community Foundation President Brian Payne, private philanthropic partners, local business owners, community members and residents at the opening of the Northeast Corridor of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick.

The 1.2-mile Northeast Corridor section completes portions of the trail from North and Alabama streets through the heart of the Mass Ave Cultural District to the Monon Trail at 10th Street and links the 15-mile Monon Trail and its 1 million annual users via an uninterrupted, beautifully designed, lighted, and landscaped trail to the Downtown Canal and the urban core of Indianapolis. At the intersection of Massachusetts and Park avenues, Mayor Ballard recognized a major philanthropic partner with the opening of the Efroymson Family Corridor, a six-block section of trail from North and Alabama streets to College and Massachusetts avenues that recognizes the family's \$2 million gift to the project. The event also officially welcomed three new public art installations into the downtown collection.

"The City of Indianapolis is well on its way to meeting the recent Livability Challenge to provide residents access to beauty through art, nature and good design every day," said Mayor Ballard. "Creating opportunities for our residents to bike and walk around our City helps to increase the connectivity between our neighborhoods, while this growing network of pedestrian and bicycle paths is a catalyst for economic growth."

Lori Efroymson-Aguilera explained why the Efroymsons were one of the first donors to the project, initially with \$1 million and later with another \$1 million gift. "We are proud to play a role in helping the Indianapolis Cultural Trail become a valued and unique community amenity that serves everyone," said Efroymson-Aguilera. "Family philanthropy has helped build a better Indianapolis for generations. It is our honor to once again work in partnership with other families including members of the Lacy and Eccles family, the Pulliam family, and of course, the Glick family, to make this bold dream a reality."

According to a recent economic development study, the Indianapolis Cultural Trail will create more than 11,000 jobs, and the economic benefits attributable to the Cultural Trail will exceed \$863 million. The study, conducted by the Indiana University Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, calculates investments from expected increase in Downtown residential and commercial ownership, attraction of creative-class talent, and increases in tourism and convention stays. The study was used in the successful grant proposal that awarded \$20.5 million to the Cultural Trail from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery

(TIGER) program administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Nearly 1,400 other proposals totaling more than \$57 billion in requests from around the U.S. were submitted for \$1.5 billion in available transportation funding. The Cultural Trail was one of 51 proposals awarded and one of only two trail projects in the country to receive funding.

A strong advocate for the Cultural Trail, Congressman André Carson helped secure the TIGER grant. "The jobs created through its construction and the businesses that that will benefit along its path will ensure that the Cultural Trail will be an economic driver for Indianapolis for decades to come," said Congressman Carson.

Payne, founder of the Cultural Trail and a champion of the project since 2001, reiterated the importance and power of connecting people to the front door or within a block of the best of Downtown Indianapolis. "There is no other trail project in the world that both connects you directly to a city's most desirable destinations while also making the journey a beautiful, inspiring experience," said Payne. "The Indianapolis Cultural Trail has catapulted Indianapolis into the global consciousness as a leader in urban trail design, transportation infrastructure and as one of the most livable communities in the country."

All three artists who created the new public art installations along this completed section of the Cultural Trail have ties to Indianapolis or Indiana. The public art installations include "Prairie Modules 1& 2" by Indianapolis resident Stuart Hyatt and "Care, Don't Care" by Indianapolis resident Jamie Pawlus, whose installation takes a twist on a typical "walk, don't walk" sign and invites trail users on Massachusetts Avenue to share their cares. "Chatham Passage," by former Bloomington, Ind., resident Sean Derry, is a multi-sensory experience in the alley off Massachusetts Avenue that includes an illuminated and rose-scented vault with a handmade lattice metal grate.

The addition of three art installations make for a total of four permanent pieces on the trail to date. The first artwork, a four-sided display featuring a woman perpetually dancing in orange LED lights entitled "Ann Dancing" by Julian Opie, was installed at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue, Vermont Street and Alabama Street in 2008. Three additional projects have been commissioned for the remaining portions of the trail.

This is the third of seven construction phases, or corridors, to be completed. The half-mile East Corridor, on Alabama Street from North Street to Market Street, was completed in June 2008, and the one-mile North Corridor, from North and Alabama streets to Indiana Avenue, was completed earlier this year. The contract to construct the Northeast Corridor was awarded to Sunesis Construction Company in 2009 for \$6.1 million and paid for by federal transportation grants.

Cultural Trail construction is underway on Capitol Avenue from Washington Street to South Street and on Alabama Street from Market Street to Washington Street. The hardscape features will be completed in both areas by the end of the year with landscaping installed in spring of 2011. The remaining construction on Virginia Avenue, Washington Street and Blackford Avenue will begin in early 2011. The entire eight-mile Cultural Trail is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

To date, \$63 million has been raised to complete the eight-mile bicycle and pedestrian project that connects the five Downtown cultural districts and greenway trails. Nearly \$21 million of this total amount has replaced aging city infrastructure. The \$63 million total also includes a \$6 million maintenance endowment held at CICF to be used for ongoing maintenance needs. More information about the Indianapolis Cultural Trail and its construction schedule is available at www.indyCulturalTrail.org.

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail: A Legacy of Gene & Marilyn Glick is a world-class urban bike and pedestrian path that connects neighborhoods, Cultural Districts and entertainment amenities, and serves as the Downtown hub for the entire Central Indiana greenway system.